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Ex-official identifies man in King killing

Associated Press

MEMPHIS — Former U.S. Attorney Hickman Ewing said he believes he knows the identity of the mystery businessman who allegedly hired an assassin to kill the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Memphis lawyer Lewis Garrison reportedly represents five people who have information about King's murder, including a retired businessman who claims he hired the gunman who killed the civil rights leader on April 4, 1968.

Garrison has refused to identify the businessman, but Ewing said he believes it is the same man who asked for money earlier this year to tell his story.

Ewing said in today's editions of *The Commercial Appeal* that he has evidence that Garrison's mystery client is Lloyd Jowers of rural West Tennessee.

In 1968, Jowers owned Jim's Grill, which was located below the boarding house where convicted assassin James Earl Ray is said to have fired the shot that killed King on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel.

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> **— London Observer**
> Quoting Garrison in King slaying story

Ewing said he met Jowers during the filming of a mock trial of Ray. Ewing was hired by producers to serve as prosecutor in the show, *Guilt or Innocence: The Trial of James Earl Ray*, which aired on Home Box Office in April.

Ewing said his investigator, former FBI agent Charlie Burns, met with Jowers Dec. 17, 1992, at Garrison's office in downtown Memphis. A memo by Burns said Jowers claimed to have "a lot of information that might put a different slant on the case," but Jowers said he would need more money than the $40 a day the show was paying, Ewing said.

A woman who answered the telephone at Jowers' house Sunday and identified herself as his wife said he was not at home.

Garrison has asked that the investigation into King's assassination be reopened, but District Attorney General John Pierotti said his allegations are "a sham and a fraud upon the public."

Pierotti said the businessman is seeking immunity from prosecution in return for the gunman's name.

Ray pleaded guilty to the shooting and is serving a 99-year sentence. He later recanted his confession and has been seeking a trial ever since.

The Observer newspaper in London reported Sunday that Garrison said the retired Memphis

King

Ray

millionaire businessman was paid $100,000 for arranging to have King murdered, and the shooter was paid $10,000.

The other four "witnesses" are described as three of the businessman's female employees and a male ex-convict hired later to take care of people "who knew too much."

"Without a doubt there has been a major miscarriage of justice," *The Observer* quoted Garrison as saying. "I would love now for the truth to come out but without immunity we may still be a very long way from justice."